

Day out for Ilford visit

ILFORD are likely to be without their experienced skipper Roger Day when they visit Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday) to face Wycombe Wanderers in the Rothmans Isthmian League. Day has a knee injury and will probably be saved for the club's FA Cup tie at Romford next week.

Even without such a talented player as Day, however, the Ilford line-up is extremely impressive. After a dramatic upsurge in fortunes last season, which included reaching the last ever Amateur Cup final, Ilford have managed to acquire the services of some of the best players around.

Despite the fact that Ilford had a highly successful team at the end of last term, no less than seven new players joined the club at the start of this season. They boosted the number of internationals at the club to seven.

Looking at the team for tomorrow, Ilford are strong all the way down. In goal is international Andy Williams, who has recovered after a series of bad injuries, and signed this season from Enfield. Ray Eaton, who almost joined Wycombe, and Peter Deadman are both international players at full back while the recently signed John Still forms a massive partnership with ex-Wanderer Peter Anderson at centre back.

Ex-Brighton Steve Barratt is joined by Paul Scott and Ray Carvell in midfield while Ilford have one of the most potent forward lines in the league — Tony Bass, John Butterfield and Tony Turley. Bass, the target man, signed recently with Still from Stortford. There is a chance Tony Gibson may play at full back with Deadman moving to midfield, if the necessary clearance comes through in time. Gibson is yet another ex-Stortford player.

Ilford, who have scored more goals (46) than any other club this term, have lost five times so far: 3-4 at home to Enfield, 0-1 at Enfield, 0-3 at Sutton and 1-2 at Leatherhead. Their most recent reverse was a surprise 1-2 defeat at home to Slough on Saturday.

In between those results, they have been hitting the target regularly including an incredible 5-4 win over Hendon. Top goalscorer is Butterfield with 15, followed by Turley. Bass has scored three in four games since his arrival.

Another player, Adrian Eglete, also had 11 goals to his credit before he was signed by Wealdstone recently. This action was largely responsible for Ilford turning professional last week. They have also disbanded the reserve team and will operate from a 16 man squad.

Despite the strength of the Ilford team, Wanderers will be in no mood to surrender a quite remarkable home league record. The last time they finished losers at Loakes Park was on November 21, 1972 — a total of 39 matches on their home ground without defeat. And if they beat or hold Ilford, they will make it a two year record. That last defeat, incidentally was at the hands of Woking, 1-2.

Added to that record, Wycombe have not been beaten in their last 16 matches. There seems no reason why they should not extend it to 17 tomorrow, for if they play at their best and, more im-

portant, take their chances, there are few teams around to touch them. They have two injury worries at present, Terry Reardon and Keith Searle. Searle is giving the chief concern and may be ruled out with fluid on the knee. There is one final point on the outcome of this game. These two sides meet in the FA Challenge Trophy (November 30) at Ilford, and the result could well be significant in relation to that cup tie.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

Division One
(up to an inc. 13/11/74)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	17	14	1	2	34	12	43
Ilford	19	12	2	5	46	27	38
Wycombe	17	10	5	2	27	13	35
L'head	16	10	3	3	36	16	33
Dulwich	19	10	3	6	30	22	33
Sutton	16	9	1	6	29	19	28
Bishop's	18	9	1	8	27	25	28
Dag'ham	11	8	1	1	25	8	25
Tooting	12	8	1	3	17	11	25
Barking	18	7	3	8	32	29	24
Clapton	17	8	0	9	26	31	24
W'stow	16	6	4	6	26	24	22
Hendon	19	6	4	9	23	31	22
Kingston	18	7	1	10	17	28	22
Slough	17	5	4	8	21	26	19
Woking	17	4	6	7	23	29	17
Hayes	18	4	5	9	24	34	17
Oxford	16	5	2	9	20	28	17
L'stone	14	3	3	8	11	19	12
Hitchin	12	3	2	7	18	24	11
Bromley	18	3	1	14	12	35	10
Walton	18	3	1	14	16	47	10



ANDY WILLIAMS

... back from injury.

RAINED OFF

WYCOMBE Wanderers' scheduled Rothmans Isthmian League, Division One match away to Oxford City on Wednesday was postponed due to the heavy rain which fell throughout the day.

The pitch at Oxford's White House ground was waterlogged and the club called off the game on Wednesday afternoon.